CENTRAL AMERICA'S JEWEL OF PEACE

McCALEB INITIATIVE FOR PEACE

COSTA RICA'S JOURNEY TO A PEACEFUL SOCIETY

Esperar que pasen los nublados del día
"Wait until the clouds have passed."

"Happy is the Costa Rican mother who knows at the moment of giving birth, that her child, will never be a soldier."

—Ryochi Saskawa

THE MCCALEB INITIATIVE FOR PEACE • A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO *THE CHART*

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Country encourages student to return

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

Violence and conflict are daily occurrences. War, militarism, disease, discrimination, illiteracy and environmental destruction are some of the forms in which violence is exhibited. Tragically, conflict is too often measured in lives lost. Desperation, caused by conditions such as hyperinflation, massive unemployment, and poverty, is often what fuels acts of violence. Working to eradicate and prevent those desperate situations is one step in avoiding the devastation caused by violence.

Costa Rican President José Figueres was inspired by the idea that true security comes from enriching quality of life, as opposed to relying on armed forces. The enormous cost of maintaining an army was depriving the government of Costa Rica from ensuring welfare for its citizens. Figueres constitutionally disbanded the army in 1948 and transferred military funds into education and healthcare budgets. This exceptionally risky decision reputed Costa Rica as a progressive country dedicated to maintaining peace.

Decades later when Central America was engulfed in armed conflict, Costa Rica repeatedly chose to rely on negotiations rather than reestablish an army. The leaders not only relied on diplomacy but helped to spread this policy throughout the region. Costa Rican President Oscar Arias brought the leaders of the region to the negotiation table which led to the signing of the Arias Peace Plan. This agreement required each participating country to agree to call a cease-fire, begin talks with opposition groups, reduce arms, declare amnesty for political prisoners and set a calendar for democratization. In 1987, the international community recognized Arias for being a key player in the Central American peace process. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts.

April Stanley
Chart Reporter

Many students at Missouri Southern are not able to locate Costa Rica on a map, nor do they have knowledge of its achievements toward peace. When I first visited Costa Rica in the summer of 2000, I was exposed to its intriguing history. The acts of this progressive state have inspired me to learn more about what makes Costa Rica unique in the region. During my first visit in 2000, I not only desired to learn the details of Costa Rica's history for myself, but I wanted to share this story with others. I wondered how this country has maintained its tranquility in a region plagued by violence. The abolition was not only an incredibly courageous act, but I found it astounding that Costa Rica has never reestablished a standing army.

Costa Rica has questioned and defied the international norm of building military power in an attempt to provide security. Costa Rica has provided a powerful lesson by doing what was necessary, rather than what the global community established as expedient. Costa Rica made the deliberate decision to focus on peace as well as providing real security to its citizens. As former President Rodrigo Carazo states, "peace is not only abolishing armies, it is not only trying to have an anti-violent community, but peace is an attitude related to mutual respect." In my opinion, Costa Rica proves that free thinking, rather than conforming, can lead to success.

I was able to return to Costa Rica in the summer of 2003 due to the generosity of the late Kenneth McCaleb and his wife Margaret. In 1998, the McCalebs made a $150,000 donation to Southern in order to assist students with projects aimed at either discovering ways to bring about peace or methods to prevent war. It is rare for an undergraduate to be presented with such an opportunity. I encourage any student who is seeking a challenge in peace-related issues to take advantage of this opportunity presented by the McCalebs. I have serious respect and admiration for the way the McCalebs have contributed to

TURN TO **COSTA,** PAGE 9B

Costa Rica proves to be more than just tourist mecca

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

Costa Rica is a small Central American state well known for its ecological diversity, pristine beaches, outdoor adventures and countless vacation destinations. Tourism is a large part of the economy, and each year thousands of people travel to Costa Rica to hike, enjoy canopy tours, scuba dive and experience whitewater rafting.

Upon examining Costa Rican history, it's apparent this state also has political stability, a history of democracy and an emphasis on its citizens' welfare. In contrast to the region in which it is located, this country has avoided guerrilla wars and repressive dictatorships. There are many historical reasons that Costa Rica has been a sea of tranquility in a region plagued by violence.

Costa Rica had a unique experience with the Spanish colonists. Unlike other areas of the Americas, Costa Rica was mostly ignored by colonists. In 1522, Europeans arrived on the coast and found the indigenous people unwilling to submit to slavery, making the area difficult to colonize. With few natives to force into servitude, the Spanish would have had to embark on the agricultural labor themselves, a situation unheard of in other parts of Central America. Considering the intense labor involved, colonists opted to move north where there were larger indigenous populations.

In 1821, Central America gained its independence from Spain. At that time, the Central American Federation included Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. Each country had the choice of becoming independent republics, rejoining the Mexican Empire or remaining members of the federation. Rather than make a hasty decision, Costa Rica waited to observe what the other countries would chose. A popular phrase, *Esperar que pasen los nublados del día* (Wait until the clouds have passed) was coined at this time. This reflects the general attitude of the people at that time as well as today when faced with conflict. In 1838, Costa Rica claimed its sovereignty and withdrew from the Central American Federation.

Costa Rica has the longest history of democracy of any Central American state. The first democratic election was held in 1899, and Costa Rica has since continued this tradition, with a few exceptions. Two exceptions were a dictatorship from 1917-1919 and a revolt in 1948 which led to an 18-month rule by military officer José Figueres. Military power is usually associated with violence, repression and human rights violations. However, rule by Figueres was in contrast to this norm. Positive outcomes of his rule include national army abolition, women's right to vote, full citizenship for black immigrants, and a presidential term limit.

The people of Costa Rica take pride when they proclaim, "we have more teachers than soldiers." When the army was abolished, military buildings were transformed into schools, weapons were replaced by books, and the military budget was transferred into education and healthcare budgets.

Costa Rica made the deliberate and risky decision to abolish its army in order to provide security to citizens through social welfare rather than military might. Today, Costa Rica has superior healthcare and education systems.

The government provides citizens with access to free public education and healthcare. The credibility of this system is exhibited in the fact that 96 percent of Costa Ricans are literate.

The abolition of the army has created an atmosphere in which the people are patient with the negotiation process. When conflict arises, the people are said to have confidence that the road to a lasting solution is more often paved with negotiations rather than military intervention.

Another reason Costa Rica is associated

TURN TO **INTRO,** PAGE 9B

Former president offers peace resolution insight

Special to The Chart

Former Costa Rican president Rodrigo Carazo helped create the University for Peace.

By April Stanley
Chart Reporter

For a four-year period, Señor Rodrigo Carazo Odio was the most important figure in Costa Rican politics.

Carazo served as President of Costa Rica from 1978-1982 and his most recognized accomplishment was gaining United Nations approval to create the University for Peace. Besides the creation of UPAZ, he is also recognized for establishing the Inter-American Court for Human Rights and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights.

The institute is devoted to human rights education and research, and the court is an autonomous judicial institution which applies and interprets human rights according to the provisions of the American Convention on Human Rights.

To date, he remains outspoken in the political arena, especially on issues concerning peace and education. Carazo and his wife, Estrella, currently run a program called Project Villa Blanca. They invite children to their private rain forest reserve so they can become familiar with nature and learn respect for the environment.

I was interested in speaking with Carazo after learning about his work in the realm of peace and education. I made a call to his office, and I was informed that although Carazo was busy, he would be happy to assist a student in a peace-related project on Costa Rica.

It was an honor to set up an appointment with the former president.

As planned, I found my way to Carazo's home in Escazú via public transportation and taxis.

After exchanging pleasantries, I expressed my gratitude for being welcomed to his home. He had a quick conversation in Spanish with his secretary who then excused herself from the room. I later learned that he was asking his secretary to arrange for a driver to deliver me safely to my hotel.

Our conversation began with me inquiring about Carazo's reasons for wanting to create UPAZ. He stated that he was in pursuit of establishing peace and understanding in this war-ridden region.

According to Carazo, Costa Rica used to be a typical Latin American country in terms of finding solutions through violent means.

"Since independence, the culture of this country has been based on the concept that harmony is the best way of life, and the only way to maintain harmony or prevent conflict is to be tolerant," he said.

Turn to **CARAZO**, Page 10B

Central Americans remember United States' abuses

By April Stanley
Chart Reporter

The United States has had a serious impact on Central America with regard to military intervention, political interference and economic domination. Modestly said, the United States has often not been a friend to Central America. Although the United States has offered its southern neighbors much positive assistance-economic aid, Peace Corps missions, and disaster relief, the negative policies of the United States have left some scars on the region.

Consider these examples. Guatemalans lived under the thumb of the American-owned United Fruit Company for decades. The company owned 40 percent of the fertile land, a portion of railroads and port facilities, maintained a monopoly on electricity production and had a powerful influence on political matters.

The U.S. government instructed troops of several countries in counter-insurgency tactics, which included the use of napalm and death squads. The death toll in Guatemala alone reached nearly 30,000, mostly civilians.

In Nicaragua, the United States prolonged the civil war by funding guerrilla rebel attacks against the communist government.

This manipulative intervention did not only occur in Central American countries. The U.S. School of the Americas trained thousands of soldiers from 22 Latin American countries who were later found responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in the region. The controversial school allegedly advocated tactics such as torture, false imprisonment and execution.

Consider one example which is reflective of many U.S. policies toward Latin America. In 1865, American William Walker and his *filibusteros* attempted to take over the region. *Filibusteros* are soldiers of fortune who attempt to enrich themselves by conducting unauthorized warfare against countries that are at peace with the United States. Convinced of his superiority by Anglo-Saxon ancestry, Walker felt justified in exterminating cultures and enslaving people for the economic gain of the United States.

Walker was determined to annex the region to the United States. First, he and his *filibusteros* sailed to Nicaragua, and he later declared himself commander-in-chief and legalized slavery. Shortly after, Walker and his 250 men entered Costa Rica in an attempt to seize the land. Costa Rican President Juan Rafael Mora gathered nearly 9,000 men from around the country to come to Costa Rica's defense. During a battle at Santa Rosa Ranch, Walker was forced to retreat to Nicaragua and partake in another bloody battle in the town on Rivas, which resulted in the death of about 1,000 Costa Rican defenders.

During the last battle, a peasant boy named Juan Santamaría courageously attempted to set fire to Walker's fortress. Immediately after torching the stronghold, Santamaría collapsed and died, being attacked by gunfire from Walker's men. Walker and his *filibusteros* took shelter and fled during the night. Faced with militant opposition in Central America, Walker returned to the United States in 1857.

Shortly after, he returned to Nicaragua and was captured by the British, who also had interest in Central America. William Walker was turned in to Honduran authorities and quickly executed.

Prior to this incident, Costa Ricans had not established a strong national identity, probably because they never before had to defend their land. The actions of this brave young farmer had united and brought pride to the Costa Rican people. His life and courage are honored every April 11 during Juan Santamaría Day. Although the young boy did not kill any of Walker's filibusteros, he is remembered as a national hero and credited with saving Costa Rica from a future of domination by a despot.

This story exemplifies the arrogance and manipulation the United States has often acted with when dealing with this region. The United States has not hesitated to use military intervention and economic strangulation in the name of its own benefit.

The past actions of the U.S. government have had a lasting impact on Latin America. The people of the United States must not be careless and forget about our history with this region.

University offers programs to increase, study world peace

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

"*Universidad para la Paz*," or the University for Peace, was created in 1980 by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 35/55.

The university is dedicated to peace studies with a mission to promote understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence among human beings, to stimulate cooperation and to lessen obstacles to world peace.

UPAZ sits on 310 hectares of a biological reserve in El Rodeo, 30 minutes outside San José. The university was established by a U.N. resolution after President Rodrigo Carazo Odio proposed the creation of the institution.

I had the honor of visiting this beautiful campus and meeting Señora Dina Rodríguez, director of gender and peace studies department, and her two helpful assistants, Victoria Robinson and Ronald Castro.

Initially UPAZ concentrated on Latin America and offered postgraduate programs in natural resources, human rights, and the culture of peace. Years later, when the secretary-general of the United Nations called for a worldwide movement of peace education, UPAZ revitalized the institution and added many more programs.

The university has six departments, which include peace education, natural resources and peace, international law and human rights, gender and peace studies, international peace studies and human security.

Señora Rodríguez explained that the gender and peace studies department is in the growing phase. Beginning September 2003, this department offered a masters degree in gender and peace building, along with existing short courses, lectures and events. UPAZ also offers regional programs in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Latin America. For example, a goal of the Africa program is to enable and assist various African universities and institutions in providing training courses for conflict prevention, peace building and reconciliation.

In the name of understanding conflicts and learning to build peace, this higher education facility has brought together people from Canada, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, the Congo, Japan, the United States, Guatemala, Peru, the Netherlands, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom and others.

The campus has hosted global events, such as the meeting of the G8 Task Force on Education, and has helped organize and participate in others, such as a meeting of the Asia Pacific Universities and Institutions for Conflict Prevention and Peace Building.

The University Council consists of 17 members who are responsible for governing the institution. The members are appointed by the secretary-general of the United Nations and honorary president of UPAZ, Kofi Annan. This group allows the school to be fully independent and able to pursue programs dedicated to promoting peace.

Another council, the UPAZ Council of Honor, is under the chairmanship of former Costa Rican president, Dr. Oscar Arias. The Council of Honor has brought together 14 Nobel Peace Laureates who provide guidance and moral and intellectual support for the university.

Members of both councils, as well as professors and students, come from all corners of the globe.

The school has liaison offices in New York and Geneva, Switzerland, as well as partnerships with many foreign non-governmental organizations,

TURN TO **STUDY**, PAGE 9B

April Stanley/The Chart

Dina Rodriguez directs the gender and peace studies department at the Universidad para la Paz, or the University for Peace.

Peace monument plays part in Costa Rican history

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

The "Monument to Disarmament, Work and Peace" displays several characteristics of Costa Rica's historical and political uniqueness. The monument honors Costa Ricans who have made outstanding efforts in building and maintaining peace.

This work of art, sculpted by Cuban artist Thelvia Marín in 1987, is the world's largest peace monument. It includes nine 12-foot columns hosting a sculpture on each side. The columns are lined up in a spiral, symbolizing the infinite quest for peace. Images on the outside of each column depict a historic moment of Costa Rica's growth and strides toward peace, while the inward facing image shows the leader influential in the effort.

One column hosts an image of two figures reading a newspaper.

On the inner side is the sculpted face of former president Juan Mora Fernández who fought for liberty of the press. This right was granted to Costa Rican citizens in Article 29 of the Constitution which is quoted beneath the art.

It reads, "Everyone can express their thoughts verbally or in writing, and publish them with no previous censure."

Another sculpture depicts one figure removing a blindfold from another with Article 21 of the Constitution quoted below. It reads, "Human life is inviolable." This article abolished the death penalty. On the opposite side is Tomas Guardia Gutierrez, president from 1870-1882. Guardia's wife had been emotionally distraught for many years due to the absence of her father and uncle, who had participated in a revolution, in her life.

Her uncle was sentenced to death and her father being exiled.

For years she advocated abolishing the death penalty, and on their 25th wedding anniversary, Guardia abolished the death penalty in Article 21.

The next column displays a figure studying, surrounded by many books. Underneath is a quote from Simón Bolívar, who liberated five South American states, which reads, "Morals and enlightenment, our primary necessities." On the inner side of the column is the face of Jesus Jiménez Zamora who made primary education free in 1865.

The next sculpture shows a figure using a hammer to destroy the wall of a building,

Special to The Chart

The monument at the University for Peace honors many leaders of Costa Rica.

duplicating a famous picture of former president Jose Figueres symbolically breaking the wall of the army headquarters when he abolished the army in 1948.

Country eliminates its standing army

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

In 1948, Costa Rica became the first country in the modern world to constitutionally abolish its standing army. This act is in total contrast to the malicious dictators who propagated guerrilla warfare and militarism that was characterized in most of Central America during this time. The abolition of the army, along with social reforms, was the end result of an armed revolution. The 1948 rule by a military officer, a time period known as a junta, did not contribute to the region's strife, but further affirmed the country's dedication to democracy.

It all started with the tense atmosphere during the 1948 election. At the polls, conservative newspaper publisher Otilio Ulate defeated Rafael Ángel Calderón Guardia of the Victory Block Party, who had served as president from 1940-1944. However, the Congress, which was dominated by Calderón supporters, refused to accept the legitimate results.

This sparked the urgent need for a peaceful negotiation, which was attempted for 11 days but ended when a renegade member of the elite, José Maria Figueres Ferrer, saw his opportunity to seize power and ignite a revolution. In March, Figueres rose up in arms against the military, marking the start of the Civil War of 1948.

The armed conflict lasted five weeks and resulted in the death of some 2,000 people. This was the worst incidence of political violence Costa Rica had ever experienced and accounted for the country's bloodiest event in the 20th century.

The "Army of National Liberation," led by Figueres, defeated the Costa Rican army, and Figueres held power through what turned out to be the 1948 junta. The two men signed the Figueres-Ulate Pact in May, which allowed Figures to legally rule and ensured a peaceful transition of power to Ulate, the legitimate victor of the election. The pact granted Figueres power to govern without a legislature as long as he agreed to hand over power to Ulate after 18 months.

With military force at his disposal, Figueres had power to act according to his own interests and could have easily exploited his power. Instead, he banned the Communist Party, gave women the right to vote, granted black immigrants full citizenship, and established a presidential term limit. Figueres nationalized the banks in order to promote economic diversity and eliminate coffee grower's control over the banking system. For decades, the elite coffee growers had dominated Costa Rican society and economy.

Courtesy of the Arias Foundation

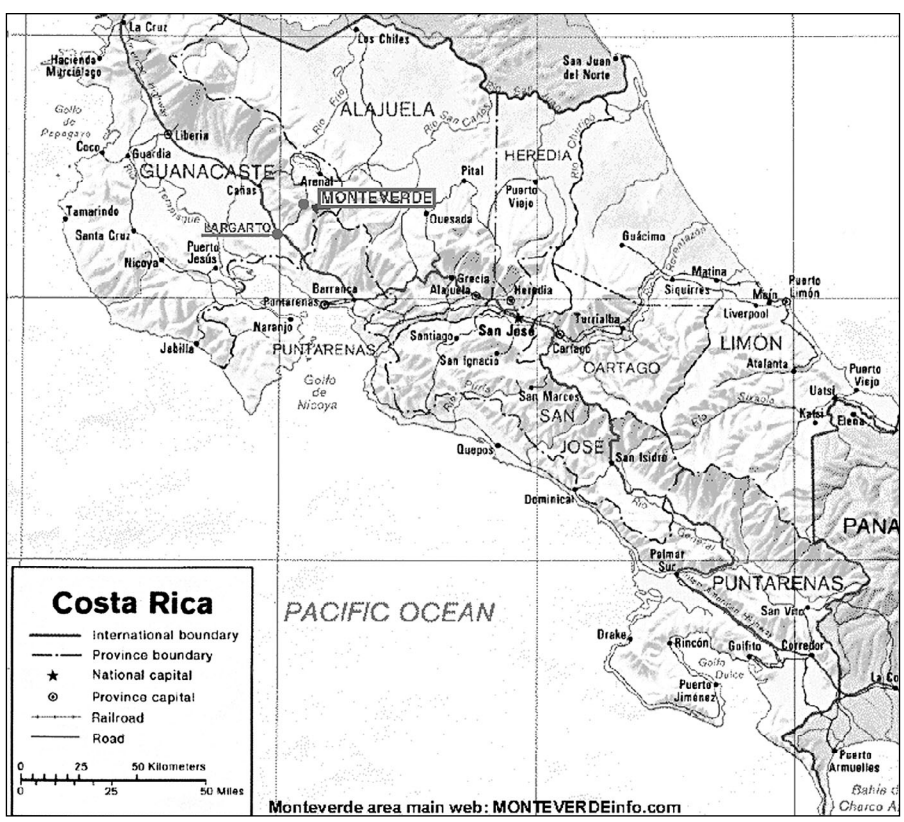
In 1948, José Figueres abolished the standing army of Costa Rica. This famous picture depicts Figueres in the symbolic action of destroying a portion of the military barracks.

Figueres also created The Supreme Electoral Tribunal. This was to oversee election matters in order to avoid another fraud, as had occurred in 1944.

During the junta of 1948, other significant changes took place. The most famous was the constitutional abolition of the standing army. Figueres not only broke up the army, but made a constitutional ban to ensure the democratic future of Costa Rica. This constitutional ban also made the abolition legitimate and prevented successors from holding power by military force. This act sharply distinguished Costa Rica from its neighbors and placed Costa Rica on the world stage as a progressive country dedicated to peace.

After the army was abolished, the military funds were transferred to the education and healthcare budgets. As a symbolic gesture during a ceremony in 1948, the army commander-in-chief presented the keys of his headquarters to the minister of education. Soon after that transfer, weapons were replaced by books, and the building was

TURN TO **ARMY**, PAGE 9B



Latin leader starts peace process, receives Nobel Prize

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

Costa Ricans, who call themselves Ticos, boast of having the oldest and most stable democracy in Central America.

Costa Rica's political stability is largely due to the absence of a standing army. Whereas in other Latin American countries, military coups have often disrupted the political system; in Costa Rica this is not a possibility. The army was constitutionally banned in Costa Rica in 1948.

Costa Rican politics since then have focused on consensus, neutrality and isolation from international conflict. However, in the 1980s the political stability that Ticos boast about was tested when Costa Rica became dangerously close to the Nicaraguan Revolution.

The fighting in Nicaragua was between the Sandinista regime, backed by the Soviet Union, and the guerrilla rebel forces known as the Contras and supported by the United States.

The Sandinistas led a communist guerrilla movement and overthrew the government in 1979. Once in power, the Sandinistas were considered a political party.

The United States had never been interested in Nicaragua but became quite intimately involved because the Sandinistas were communists. The U.S. Central American policy focused on ousting the communist Sandinista regime by militarily and financially aiding the Contras's guerrilla attacks.

Nicaragua became yet another bloody stage for the battle between capitalist and communist ideologies. By providing millions of dollars and generous military aid, the United States maneuvered the Contras like a puppet against the Sandinista government, with little consideration of the damage being done.

By the early 1980s, the Contras needed foreign bases to attack the Sandinista government.

Neighboring Costa Rica was experiencing severe economic crisis and was in need of assistance, so the country went against its tradition of isolation and allowed Contra bases in exchange for U.S. economic aid.

"We desperately needed United States aid to deal with the economic crisis," said Fernando Volio Costa Rican foreign minister. "In order to get that aid we decided to play ball with the United States on the issue of the Contras."

Things quickly changed in Costa Rica after it became part of the war equation. In 1982, San José, the capital city, became a stage for terrorist activities against other states in the region, mainly Nicaragua and El Salvador. Costa Rican President Luis Alberto Monge Alvarez called on U.S. security assistance. He had elite anti-terrorism forces trained and called for a voluntary group of citizens to join the battle.

Once Costa Rica had ventured away from neutrality, there was no possibility of return. After a 1985 border clash killed two Tico guards and wounded others, Monge decided to train the civil guards with the help of U.S. green berets.

After the training, the civil guards were equipped with the same infantry weapons as a modern army.

U.S. involvement prevented economic collapse, but the political situation was spiraling out of control. By 1985 there were dozens of formal protests by Nicaraguans and Costa Ricans alike against border incidents. The likelihood of an overt international conflict was increasing.

Amidst this turmoil, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez was elected president in 1986.

He spoke sharply of abandoning former Monge's belligerent policy of providing military assistance for guerrilla attacks and returning to a peaceful and neutral society. Arias knew that to achieve his goal, Costa Rica had to end Contra operations and move away from the U.S. Central American policy.

It was expensive and dangerous to share a border with communist Nicaragua, and in order to preserve the political structure of Costa Rica, Arias knew his neighbors had to be democratized. With that in mind, he suspended Contra activities in Costa Rica.

The once helpful United States reacted by freezing some funds and drastically reducing economic aid. Arias pushed for negotiations with the Reagan administration, explaining that aiding the Contras was prolonging the bloodshed and was not successful in finding peace. Arias was convinced that the only lasting solution would be to democratize Nicaragua, and he was determined

TURN TO **PRIZE**, PAGE 8B

Courtesy of the Arias Foundation

A Costa Rican newspaper vendor is overjoyed that Dr. Oscar Arias, a Latin American leader, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987.

Arias provides 10-point plan for country

Central America was in the midst of decades plagued by war and authoritarian regimes when Costa Rican President Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez introduced a peace plan that initiated negotiations among leaders of the region.

The Arias Peace Plan involved Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The 10-point plan addressed many of the problems which had fueled violence and repression in Central America. According to the document each government was obligated to: 1) Within 60 days grant amnesty for political prisoners and establish a commission to ensure the implementation of the amnesty process. Initiate or reinforce dialog with each domestic political opposition group that has ceased using arms.

2) Suspend military actions of all warring parties.

3) Launch an authentic democratic process, which promotes social justice and respect for human rights. Within 60 days grant to all ideological groups the freedom to operate communication media without prior censorship. Establish pluralism of political parties. Grant each group the right to associate and demonstrate.

4) Hold free, pluralistic and fair elections which will be supervised by the Organization of American States in order to guarantee fairness.

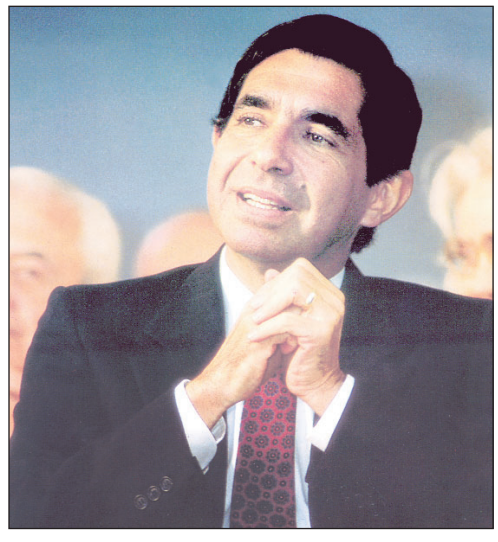
5) Request the suspension of military aid from outside governments and request that irregular forces refrain from receiving such aid.

6) Commit to preventing the use of territory by persons, organizations or groups attempting to destabilize any part of the region. Refuse to provide or allow military or logistical support.

7) Within 60 days, begin negotiations for the control and reduction of weapons. The negotiations shall also cover measures for the disarmament of irregular forces in the region.

8) Within 30 days, establish a follow-up

TURN TO **PLAN**, PAGE 7B



Courtesy of the Arias Foundation

Dr. Oscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica, was important in the peace process.

Central American countries share bloody political past

By April Stanley
Chart Reporter

One must consider the bloody political histories of in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Eldor from the 1930s to 1980s. Most of Central America had been a scene of bitter warfare, when Costa Rican president Dr. Oscar Arias drafted the Arias Peace Plan in 1986.

He later received the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize for his attempt to bring cease-fire, negotiations, and democracy to the region.

Nicaragua — U.S. Marines in Nicaragua participated in an ongoing battle with rebel forces from 1927 to 1933. After U.S. departed, Anastasio Somoza took over the presidency in 1936, and until 1979, the Somoza family maintained authoritarian control over Nicaragua. Beginning in the 1960s, Sandinista National Liberation Front started a guerrilla war against Somoza until it took control in 1979. The FSLN regime confiscated private property and supported guerrilla movements in neighboring countries. In the 1980s, Nicaragua became a stage for the Cold War with the Soviet-backed Sandinistas regime battling the U.S. supported Contra rebel forces.

Countless bloody attacks were launched throughout a decade. The Sandinistas lost power in 1990 but remained a force in Nicaraguan politics.

Honduras — Since 1838, Honduras has faced almost 300 domestic rebellions, civil wars, and changes of government. In the 1930s, authoritarian General Andino ruled Honduras while maintaining ties with dictators in neighboring countries.

In 1955, a coup led to elections in 1957, which gave power to the Liberal party candidate, Dr. Ramon Villeda Morales. However, in 1963, military officers deposed Villeda in a bloody coup. They controlled the national police, exiled Liberal party members, and governed until 1970 under General Lopez. A civilian president ruled briefly in 1970, but was overthrown by a coup initiated by Lopez, who ruled until scandals brought his regime down.

Guatemala — From 1930-1944, General Ubico held repressive, authoritarian control. In 1944, he was overthrown, and civilian-president Juan José Arevalo ruled from 1945 to 1951. The CIA supported an invasion by Colonel Armas in 1954, after which he assumed presidency. He was assassinated in 1957, and General Fuentes took power.In 1960, a group of officers revolted, went into hiding, and then later emerged with other guerrilla groups in armed insurrection lasting three decades. With U.S. support, the army attempted to break up guerrilla movements using napalm and death squads. This resulted in 30,000 deaths, mostly civilians. Between 1978 and 1983, the death toll averaged 1,000 per month.

Courtesy of the Arias Foundation

Before the peace process, most Central American countries experienced guerrilla warfare or military rule.

El Salvador — El Salvador's history is full of repression, revolutions, and authoritarian governments. The economic elite and military ruled the country until a 1932 coup. All but one president between 1932 and 1980 was an army officer. An election fraud in 1972 the opposition that armed insurrection was the only way to achieve change.

In the late 1970s, guerrilla warfare turned into a 12-year civil war which was characterized by death squads, repression and indiscriminate killings. A revolutionary junta formed in the late 1970s, which initiated many reforms. A republican government was established, and power was peacefully transferred.

However, in 1983 many guerrilla groups were not satisfied by government reforms, so they united under Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front. Negotiations between the government and guerrillas started in 1989, but ended when guerrillas launched a bloody nationwide attack. The civil war was responsible for the deaths of 70,000 people.

A DAY AT THE BEACH

Special to The Chart

Many beaches stretch across the 750 miles of coastline Costa Rica has to offer.

PLAN:

From Page 6B

committee to supervise and verify compliance to the commitments of the peace plan.

This committee will consist of the secretary generals of the United Nations and the OAS, as well as the foreign ministers of other regional groups.

9) Within six months, establish a regional meeting to evaluate the progress made toward these commitments.

10) Adopt agreements which shall increase development in order to make society more egalitarian and free from misery.

The Arias Peace Plan underwent modification and was later renamed the Central American Peace Accord. In 1987, Arias was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to the Central American peace process. With the monetary award, he founded the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress to further his vision of democracy in the world.

PRIZE:

From Page 6B

to do so.

Other Central American states had experienced many revolutions, guerrilla attacks, civil wars and authoritarian regimes. The region was in need of a solution to the decades-old problem. So in February 1986, Arias took the region's problems into his own hands and formed a 10-point peace proposal called the Arias Peace Plan.

If the leaders of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua signed the plan, they were required to call a cease-fire, begin talks with opposition groups, reduce arms, declare amnesty for political prisoners, end outside support for insurgent forces, conduct free elections and set a calendar for democratization.

On Aug. 17, 1987, the leaders of the five countries came together to discuss the Arias Peace Plan. It was signed by each leader and became known as the Central American Peace Accord, or Esquipulas II.

Previous attempts toward a solution, initiated by the United States, focused on security forces and emphasized using forceful means.

In contrast, the Central American Peace Accord addressed the root of the regional problems and put emphasis on negotiation and democratization. An important component of these negotiations was that leaders worked toward accepting each other despite personal differences. It also made clear that Central America was willing to work together and find a solution without outside influence and manipulation fueled by ideology.

The road toward peace was a long and difficult one. The influential U.S. president, Ronald Reagan rejected the plan. He deprived Costa Rica of economic aid and continually pushed Congress to allow more military aid to the Contras. When House Democrats proposed $30.8 million in humanitarian aid for the Contras, Reagan refused to negotiate and insisted that the focus should be on military assistance instead.

However, the Sandinistas embraced the Central American Peace Accord, realizing it reflected the need for Central America to be independent from U.S. policies if political and social changes were to be achieved.

Changes did not occur overnight, nor did each country immediately comply with every agreement of Esquipulas II. The negotiations had reached a grim stalemate. Meetings among the Central American leaders were canceled at least six times for fear of a diplomatic failure. Time passed and the dream of democracy and peace seemed unattainable.

Then three key events occurred that helped end the stalemate.

First, the new U.S. administration under President George Bush realized that aiding the Contras was a failing endeavor, not to mention that it was prolonging the violence and fear for the people of Nicaragua. In 1989, Bush gave up on the Contras as a means to political change, sent humanitarian aid to the Contras, and focused on negotiations with the Sandinistas. The peace process needed U.S. compliance in order to work.

Second, the Sandinista economy was collapsing. Inflation was at 35,000 percent in 1988 and unemployment at 20 percent. Washington imposed an economic embargo forcing Nicaragua to look for other markets, an effort that was unsuccessful. It was obvious that improving the economic situation would require improving relations with the United States.

Lastly, the Sandinistas lost the support of the Soviet Union; the Soviet Union withdrew much of its support for guerrilla movements abroad and became reclusive. The Cold War was coming to an end and funding for the Nicaraguan communists had run dry.

After more presidential summits, U.N. involvement in Nicaragua, and a bloody Contra attack launched from Honduras, the leaders again signed an agreement to get the three-year old peace process moving.

Confident of victory, Nicaraguan leader Daniel Ortega promised that the 1990 presidential election would be free and fair. But when the votes were counted, U.S.-supported Violeta Barrios de Chamorro became the new Nicaraguan leader. Power was peacefully transferred for the first time in decades. The conflict between the communist government of Nicaragua and the United States was finally over. The Bush Administration sent aid for the ailing economy, and the Contras, starved of U.S. military funds, were forced to sign a cease-fire agreement.

Arias's Peace Plan, which was based on diplomacy and democracy, opened the door to political changes in the region. The 1987 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Arias for his achievement in initiating the Central American peace process.

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Costa Rica

At a Glance

- The country is slightly smaller than West Virginia with a population of about 3.9 million.
- Twenty-five percent of Costa Rica's land is under protection.
- Although only .01 percent of the earth's landmass, Costa Rica hosts about 6 percent of the world's biodiversity.
- In this small country there are 35,000 species of insects, more than 10,000 species of plants, 850 species of birds — more than the United States and Canada combined and 800 species of butterflies — more than the entire African continent.
- At 96 percent, Costa Rica has the highest literacy rate in Central America.
- Eighty-two percent of Costa Rica's electricity originates from hydropower.
- Costa Ricans call themselves "Ticos" or "Ticas."
- Pura Vida (Pure Life) is one of the most used phrases of the country. It can mean hello, good bye, thank you, what's up, etc.
- Costa Rica and El Salvador are the only two countries that have an embassy in Jerusalem.
- Policemen wear a uniform identical to that of public school children in order to avoid appearing hostile or soldier-like.
- In 1948, Costa Rica became the first country in the modern world to abolish its army. The military funds were transferred to the education and healthcare budgets to provide real security to Costa Rican citizens.
- Former President Oscar Arias won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 after drafting the Arias Peace Plan, an agreement that initiated negotiations among Central American leaders to address the region's problems.
- Costa Rica, meaning "rich coast," acquired its name when Christopher Columbus mistakenly assumed the country was full of precious metals.

Costa Rica has several waterfalls throughout the country that attract visitors.

Special to The Chart

ARMY:

From Page 5B

converted into a school.

The former military headquarters are now the National Museum of Costa Rica, an impressive presentation of many stages of Costa Rican history. In front of the former army headquarters is *Plaza de la Democracia* (Democracy Plaza) which was dedicated in the 1980s during a ceremony in which former President Oscar Arias stated, "Here, reason defeated force. Here, the fearless tolerance enjoyed by a people without arms was born. Here, the soldier became a teacher; the rifle that once hung over his shoulder became the book now held in his hands."

As agreed upon in the Figeres-Ulate Pact, the 18-month rule came to an end in 1949. Figueres honored the pact and showed his commitment to democracy by peacefully handing power over to Ulate. In 1951, Figueres organized the National Liberation Party which continued to pursue efforts that would promote social welfare. After the 1953 election, the National Liberation Party extended housing subsidies and free medical care. It also nationalized insurance, utility services and the railway.

The army abolition came from military overthrow of the government, which could have been devastating to Costa Rican democracy and people.

Instead, this event has contributed to Costa Rica's peaceful reputation and has influenced leaders to encourage negotiation and rely on reason, rather than force when faced with conflict.

Former President Rodrigo Carazo Odio comments that, "Costa Ricans have cultivated a civilized spirit, a spirit opposed to militarization and violence. Armed with this spirit, the people are capable of seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts and respecting the rights of others." He states that this respect has survived and flourished because "education has fostered such an attitude and because in the absence of [military] weapons with which to impose an idea, the only weapon left is reason."

STUDY:

From Page 4B

universities, governments, foundations and institutes. These partnerships bring together knowledge, skills, various perspectives and aspirations in order that resources are used effectively.

Eighty students have been chosen out of hundreds of applicants to begin a new semester at UPAZ in September 2003. While I was working on this project in Costa Rica during June 2003, the university graduated 24 students from various master's programs.

"The borders of the world are closing, except to the rich and the skilled," said Maurice Strong, senior adviser to secretary-general of the United Nations and current rector of UPAZ at the graduation ceremony.

He called upon the students to use their education to help bring peace and stability to this lawless and dangerous world.

COSTA:

From Page 2B

society. This learning experience would not have been possible without the McCalebs' extreme generosity. Thank you.

This project has been one of the most challenging experiences of my academic career and the most rewarding.

I thank my family for all their support and encouragement. I acknowledge Dr. Thomas Simpson, associate professor of political science, for assisting me with this project and for having faith in my abilities.

Thanks to Dr. Larry Cebula, associate professor of history, for his academic input on short notice.

My gratitude goes to Señora Ana Yancy Espinoza and the staff of the Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress and to Justin Skinner, personal assistant to Dr. Arias. Thanks to the staff at the Museum of Peace for allowing me to use their facilities.

I feel honored to have met former President Rodrigo Carazo. I am grateful for the time he spent with me and for showing me true *tico* hospitality and kindness. Thanks to the faculty of the University for Peace, especially Dina Rodríguez, Ronald Castro and Victoria Robinson.

Thanks to James Latham and Naomi Fowler of Radio for Peace International. Much appreciation to the Quaker community of Monteverde, especially Jean Stuckey and John and Sue Trostle for their contribution to my research. Thanks to Njaryi Gitonga for all his support and assistance.

I am grateful for Seamus Abshere being so helpful during a stressful time.

I appreciate all the help from Juan José Rodríguez Ramírez. My gratitude goes to my *tico* family, the Acuñas, for their hospitality. Thanks to Alejandra Burgess for translating.

FORMER HEADQUARTERS

April Stanley/The Chart

When José Figueres abolished the military in 1948, this building was the military's headquarters. It was converted to a school and then the National Museum of Costa Rica.

INTRO:

From Page 2B

with stability and peace is due to its contribution to the regional peace process.

For decades most of Central America was experiencing endless guerrilla warfare and revolutions.

During the 1980s, Costa Rica's ability to rely on negotiations was tested when violence from the Nicaraguan revolution spilled into Costa Rica.

Costa Rican President Dr. Oscar Arias drafted the Arias Peace Plan which was instrumental in bringing together the leaders of Central America to negotiate a solution to the region's many conflicts.

The Nobel Peace Prize was presented to Arias for his efforts in initiating the Central American peace process.

He used the monetary award to create the Arias Foundation of Peace and Human Progress.

The foundation works to promote just and peaceful societies in Central America and other regions.

Costa Rica is an ecologically diverse country which offers a variety of vacation spots. But this country has proven to be more than just a tourist destination.

The actions of Costa Rica's leadership proved essential for initiating negotiations in the region.

Due to these historical events Costa Rica is considered on the world stage to be a progressive state dedicated to democracy and a peaceful existence.

Environmental diversity creates need for national biological conservation

BY APRIL STANLEY
Chart Reporter

One challenge for the Costa Rican government is to provide security in the absence of a standing army. To do this, the state has invested in promoting quality of life through means of education and health care, rather than investing in weaponry and armed forces. As an additional security component, the government has invested in the environment.

Environmental degradation is known to directly or indirectly cause human suffering. It can also create conditions that increase the potential for conflict, such as economic disruption, social tension and political antagonism. While there are environmental problems in Costa Rica such as deforestation and soil erosion caused by the cattle industry, an emphasis on protecting the environment is apparent.

Twenty-five percent of Costa Rica's land is under some form of protection, whereas the global average is only 3 percent. Half of that protected land is within the national park system.

Costa Rica has quite a rich and diverse environment. While occupying only .01 percent of the earth's landmass, Costa Rica hosts 5 percent of the world's biodiversity. In this country, there are 35,000 species of insects, more than 10,000 species of plants, 850 species of birds (more than the United States and Canada combined) and 800 species of butterflies (more than the entire African continent).

The key to supporting this biological wealth is to maintain the many diverse ecosystems. The ecological richness includes lowland rain forests, cloud forests, tropical dry forests, mangrove forests and swamps. Included in Costa Rica's environmental riches are also three major volcanic mountain ranges (which include active volcanoes) and 750 total miles of coastline.

Given that this country has 31 national parks, it is no wonder that Costa Rica is an extremely popular ecotourism destination.

Tourism and ecotourism have grown because of the environmental beauty Costa Rica offers, in addition to a stable political atmosphere. Having surpassed cattle ranching, coffee and banana exportation, tourism is now the country's top source of income. Ecotourism, which is exploring natural areas to observe wildlife or learn about the environment with minimal or no damage to the ecosystem, has become popular in recent years.

Costa Rica offers many options for active travelers. One can participate in a variety of adventures such as white-water rafting, kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, camping, hiking, mountain biking and bird watching. Taking a canopy tour is an increasingly popular way to explore the tropical rain forest. A person hangs from a harness that is connected to wires some 100 feet above the forest floor and glides through the forest canopy on wires, stopping at platforms to enjoy the view.

A round trip air ticket to Costa Rica can be purchased for around $450 and the duration of the trip from Dallas to San José is only three hours. Costa Rica is a fascinating destination with many experiences to offer and is both inexpensive and relatively close.

Special to The Chart

The constantly flowing Arenal Volcano is just one of the many biological wonders in Costa Rica. The country has three major volcanic mountain ranges.

Quick Thoughts

- Twenty-five percent of Costa Rica's land is under some form of protection.
- The global average is 3 percent. Half of that protected land is within the national park system.

CARAZO:

From Page 3B

Carazo believes "peace is not only abolishing armies, it is not only trying to have an anti-violent community, but peace is an attitude related to mutual respect."

In 1948, when the army was constitutionally abolished, Carazo was a keen supporter of the change. During his presidency, he stood firm on the fact that his country was proud they had no army, and he was not willing to act against the constitution.

When U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Jean Kirkpatrick suggested Costa Rica should organize an army to defend itself from the communists on the continent, Señor Carazo responded, "we have no desire ... and we are obliged by our constitution not to have one." In the absence of military force with which to enforce ideas, this country has patience with the diplomatic process. Carazo is proud that his country is known for its willingness to "talk it out" when faced with conflict.

Carazo insists that despite these strides toward peace, "Costa Rica is not heaven, nor is it a utopia."

"Costa Rica has all of the problems that are usual to similar countries, and problems could arise at any moment," he said.

Carazo proudly proclaims that the Costa Rican people share a mutual motivation to seek peace.

"People here consider that the best way of life is to respect each other," he said. "We have been nurturing and practicing this tradition of respect for hundreds of years. Because of this, we are ready to work for peace."

It was due to this tradition, and the desire to spread it to other communities, that he thought his country would be a suitable host for the U.N. University for Peace.

"A country like ours could contribute a lot if we were able to transfer our way of thinking to other communities," Carazo said. "So the University for Peace was created to develop this kind of education and to try to take positive ideas to those areas where we know people need this kind of assistance."

Carazo's initiatives were not only limited to political issues. He continues to emphasize the importance of conserving and respecting the environment. Project Villa Blanca, run by him and his wife, Estrella, is located on their private rain forest reserve called Bosque de los Angeles (Forest of the Angels). They provide transportation and nature walks for school children to become exposed to and also learn from the forest. Carazo believes "you cannot respect that which you do not know." He believes respect will follow after introducing children to the importance of nature and teaching about human dependency on the environment.

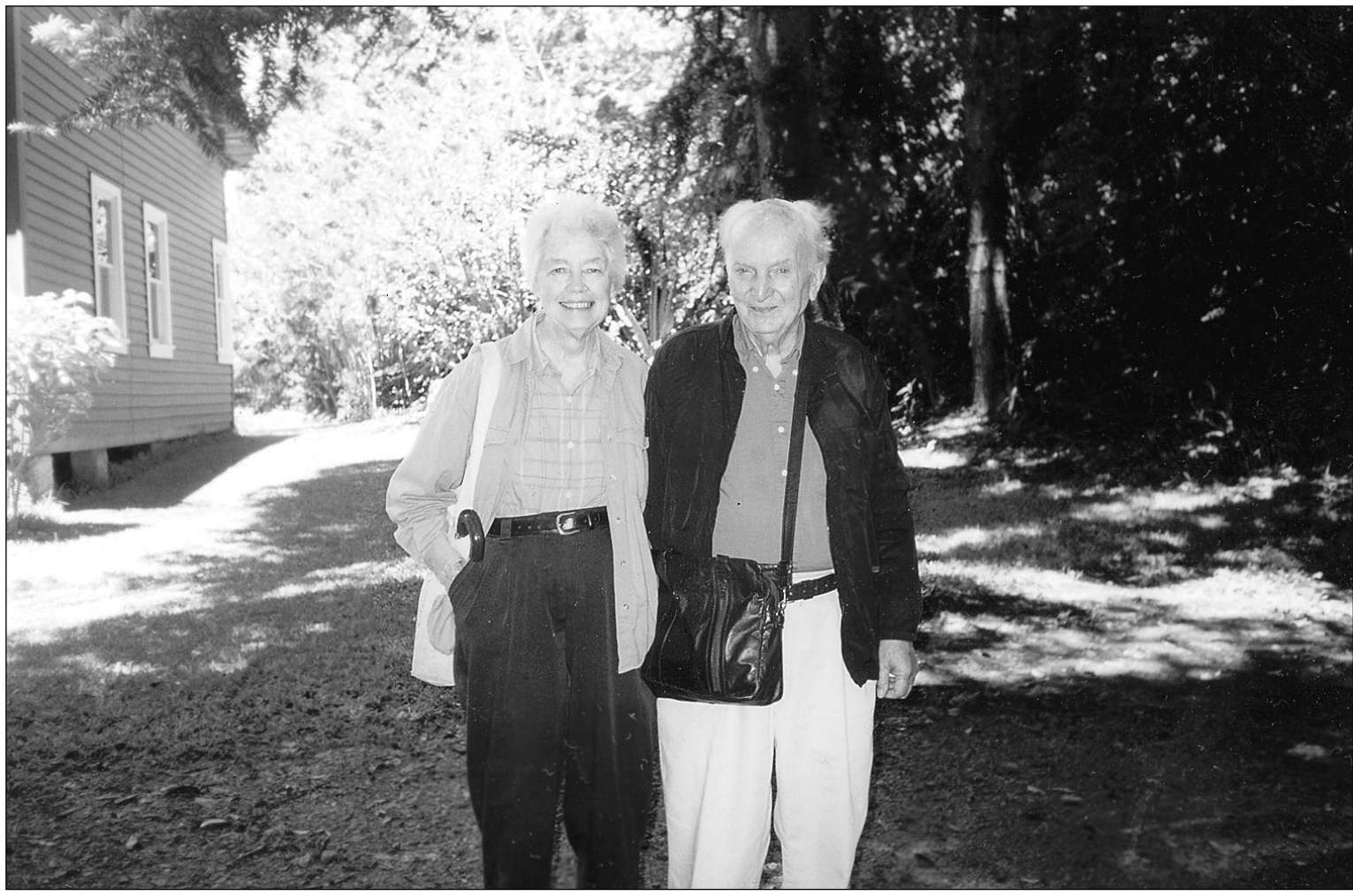
"We want the children to experience the real values of creation," he said. "I have always said we must be very careful with air and water. If we want to survive, those two elements are basic. So they (the children) must understand that human life depends on a healthy environment, and once they realize that, they will respect and protect the forest in order to live.

"Children begin to understand that emotional and spiritual wealth have everything to do with the conservation of the forest. Monetary wealth is also affected by conservation. Through ecotourism we are saving nature and educating people about the real values of creation."

After a lengthy discussion with Carazo, I was driven back to my hotel in San José by his assistant. Carazo proved to be sincere and genuine by ensuring my safety. I was honored this former president would sacrifice time to assist me in my endeavor.

Quakers relocate in search of religious freedom

By April Stanley
Chart Reporter



April Stanley/The Chart

John and Sue Trostle, active members of the Quaker community, have lived and worked in Monteverde since the early 1970s.

Upon her return from Costa Rica, my Great Aunt Evelyn told me about a community of American Quakers in Monteverde, Costa Rica. Coming from a lineage of Quakers, I was anxious to visit this area and learn what motivated them to move to Costa Rica.

Quakerism is a Protestant religion that emphasizes living a simple life, treating all people with respect and equality and living a life in peace. Quakers, also known as "Friends," are known for being pacifists and for being service minded.

Quakers around the United States were deeply disturbed when, after World War II, their country was on its way to becoming the most militarized country in the world. Heavy direct and hidden taxes for war preparations made it impossible to live without supporting the war effort and benefiting from a war economy. The Quaker community in Fairhope was especially progressive and was prepared to change its lives in order to live according to its spiritual beliefs. A few of the Fairhope families began to seriously entertain the idea of relocating to another country.

While I was in Monteverde I spoke with John and Sue Trostle, Quakers who had lived in Monteverde since the early 1970s. They informed me of another incident that motivated some members of this community to relocate.

A few Quakers in Fairhope had refused to register for the military draft because it conflicted with their religious beliefs. Because of their refusal, they were arrested in October 1949.

Despite having committed no previous crimes, Wilford Guindon, Howard Rockwell, Leonard Rockwell and Marvin Rockwell were sentenced to serve one year and one day in the federal prison in Tallahassee. The men served four months before being released on parole and returning to Alabama.

This incident, along with disgust over extreme militarization in the United States, led several families to conclude that a different environment would better enable them to live according to the ideals of their religion. The Quakers were ready to raise their families in an atmosphere which was more conducive to their spiritual beliefs, even if it meant leaving their home and community. They were interested in Costa Rica because its army was abolished in 1948, and it had a history of democracy and political stability.

In 1950, a few members of the community visited Costa Rica in their search for a new home. They enjoyed the relaxed and friendly atmosphere and were delighted to discover that in the absence of an army, this country was full of pacifists, and policies toward conflict were focused on neutrality.

After returning to Fairhope and further considering their options, they officially decided to relocate to Costa Rica. A few of the men returned to Costa Rica and searched for land to settle before the others made the move. In May 1951, they purchased 3,000 acres of land in the province of Puntarenas.

In Fairhope, the families prepared to migrate and begin the long journey. After traveling for many weeks and through several countries, the cars and jeeps began to arrive in Monteverde.

There were many struggles at first. The undeveloped area had no paved roads, making for a difficult journey through extremely rough mountain terrain. Upon arrival, the initial group of 36 needed to quickly establish shelter and find drinking water.

During the settling, the families worked together to build houses, establish the Monteverde Friends School and maintain a dairy farm and build a cheese factory.

Though tucked away in the secluded hills of Monteverde, the Friends did not want to live secluded from Costa Rican society. In order to integrate into their new society the Quakers learned Spanish. Today, the Monteverde Friends School caters to Costa Rican and North American students who are taught in both English and Spanish.

In recent years, the Quaker population of Monteverde has dwindled, but its impact in education and local economy remains. The Quakers have contributed to the economy by establishing the dairy farm and the cheese factory.

The Monteverde Friends School provides education to many native Costa Rican students. Students of this school are taught valuable peace-keeping techniques at a young age. One technique involves students using the "Peace Table."

This table provides an area for two students in conflict to remove themselves from the situation and talk out their problem.

Jean Stuckey, Friends School librarian, said the children successfully reach an agreement on their own using this method. This is just one way the peaceful ideal is passed along to the children. Stuckey also showed me the Friends Library, which is kept unlocked 24 hours a day. Each member of the community is allowed access to the materials based on trust. She said they have had books taken, but "providing access to a library for people who wouldn't otherwise have it outweighs the small number of missing books."

Quick Thoughts

- Costa Rica abolished its army in 1948 and has a history of democracy and political stability.
- Quakers that refused to register for the military draft in the 1970s could be sentenced to one year in prison.

"Peace is a never-ending process." —Ryochi Saskawa